Import of gold by bonafide passengers

879. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing to allow the restricted import of Gold by the bonafide passengers returning from foreign countries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Rangarajan Committee which examined the matters regarding the policy of gold has among other things recommended for review of the present ceiling on the aggregate value of gold jewellery that could be brought into India free of duty under the Transfer of Residence Rules, 1978 and Baggage Rules, 1978.

(c) Does not arise.

Smuggling of gold and heroin

880. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of gold and heroin is on the increase;

(b) if so, what is the value of gold and heroin seized during the last two months; and

(c) what steps have been taken to curb the smuggling of gold and herein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the quantum of gold and heroin being smuggled into or out of the counrty. However, seizures of gold and heroin effected during the last few years, as shown in the table below, indicate an upward trend. This need not necessarily be on account of a spurt in smuggling and could be due to more effective anti-smuggling measures:-

(in kgs) (Rs in crores)

Year	Gold		Heroin
	Quantity	Valu	(in Kgs
1986	2174	46.67	2537
1987	2255	65.78	2779
1988 (up to 31st October)	4070*	130.69*	2613*

*Figures are provisional.

(b) The quantity and value of gold and heroin seized during the two months of September and October 1988 are given below:-

Gold		Heroin
Value (Rs. in crores)	Quantity (in Kgs.)	(in Kg.)
27.11	839	738

Figures are provisional.